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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 05 2007**Remarks

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested, particularly as herein amended.

The Office Action mailed November 6, 2006, rejected claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Williams (US 2,270,914); rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a proposed combination of the patent to Holderegger (US 2,650,871) with what has been characterized as "the disclosed prior art", referring to disclosure provided in applicant's specification; and rejected claims 1 to 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a proposed combination of the patent to Williams with what has been characterized as "the disclosed prior art". It was further indicated that claims 7 to 18 and 22 to 30 would be allowable if suitably rewritten, and that claims 31 to 47 were allowed.

A "Reply to Office Action Mailed November 6, 2006" was filed in this matter on December 29, 2006, in an effort to place this patent application in condition for allowance pursuant to a telephone interview which had been conducted with the Examiner on November 29, 2006. However, an "Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief" mailed on January 31, 2007, refuses entry of this earlier Reply, taking the position that the Reply does not operate to place the patent application in condition for

allowance for specified reasons.

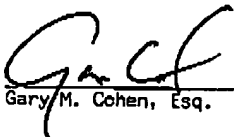
Noting that the Office Action of November 6, 2006, was made final, and responsive to Paragraph 1 of the Advisory Action, claim 1 of this patent application has been amended to recite the structures formerly recited in dependent claims 2, 6 and 7, and claim 20 of the patent application has been amended to recite the structure formerly recited in dependent claim 22. Claims 2, 6, 7 and 22 have been canceled, and the dependencies of claims 2 to 5, 8 and 23 have been correspondingly amended. The dependency of claim 41 has also been amended to provide suitable antecedent basis for the subject matter which is recited.

It is submitted that such amendments place pending claims 1, 3 to 5, 8 to 18, 20, 21 and 23 to 30 in condition for allowance, in addition to claims 31 to 47, which have already been allowed, placing this patent application in condition for allowance.

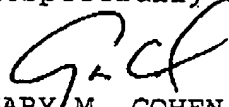
In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments presented in this Reply is respectfully requested, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(1), and an allowance of this patent application is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on: March 5, 2007.

Date: 3/5/07

  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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